



DAVID L. BOREN COLLEGE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
**CENTER FOR BRAZIL STUDIES**  
*The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA*

## Call for Papers

### Tests and Prospects for Democracy and Human Rights in Brazil

*Conveners:*

[Fabio de Sa e Silva](#) and [Michelle Morais](#)

Center for Brazil Studies, The University of Oklahoma

Scholars and practitioners in the fields of politics and international development have asked or been asked, “What is happening to Brazil”? Once Latin America’s most promising example of democratization, an emerging economy, and a rising power in the Global South, Brazil has now turned into a bold question-mark. Amidst an economic crisis, a presidential impeachment, and a corruption scandal, the country elected a far-right president and has undergone radical--and regressive--changes in economic, social, environmental, and public safety policies. The Center for Brazil Studies at the University of Oklahoma is soliciting article proposals examining the nature and the context surrounding this shift in the country’s politics and policies.

In addition to a solid empirical basis, articles should bring significant theoretical and comparative contributions to the study of political development, state-society relations, and the politics of human rights. Even though some processes and dynamics may be particular to the Brazilian context, discussions should allow for a broader and deeper understanding of political development, especially as it intersects with the challenges of upholding the rights of minority and marginalized groups and of protecting the environment. Articles should help examine questions such as the following:

- How can the recent changes in Brazilian politics be characterized? How do they compare to phenomena such as the rise of right-wing populism and the “death” of democracies--both in terms of their causes and implications?
- Considering that Bolsonaro is a retired army captain and his campaign featured a prominent military rhetoric, how does Brazil fit in the apparent trend of the revival of the military’s political involvement in Latin America?
- How have state-society relations shifted with democratic swings? How has democratic instability been experienced, understood and constructed by different societal agents--from NGOs and Unions to churches and professional associations?
- How do social struggles in the fields of human rights--such as against race, class, and gender inequality--and the environment help strengthen democracy or suffer from its weaknesses? How have social and political dynamics in these fields been affected by the erosion of democratic processes and institutions?

Selected articles will undergo a first round of discussions and revisions to take place at the [2020 Symposium of the Department of International and Area Studies, The University of Oklahoma](#). The symposium will bring together scholars and practitioners interested in Brazil's past, present, and future. The Symposium will take place on April 16-17, 2020. Travel funding will be provided for the authors whose articles are selected.

### **How to submit your proposal:**

A 500-word proposal should be submitted by email to [brazilstudies@ou.edu](mailto:brazilstudies@ou.edu) no later than January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Proposals should present the article's main questions, theoretical contributions, methodological approach, and (expected) findings.

Selected proposals will be announced on February 7<sup>th</sup> by email, as well as on the Symposium's website. Complete first drafts are expected by March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the latest, so that symposium discussants can prepare their feedback to authors. Formatting should follow the standards of the [Latin American Politics and Society](#) Journal:

“Maximum total length is 40 pages (about 10,000 words) with all elements in Times New Roman 12 type, double-spaced. This applies to all elements, including quotations, notes, bibliography, tables, appendixes, and any other materials. Manuscripts that exceed this length will be returned to the authors to be shortened. Margins should be 1 inch top and bottom, 1.25 inches left and right. Tables should be formatted as text in Microsoft Word table format. All notes and references should be double-spaced and in the same size type as the text. Endnotes are preferred”.

Following comments and suggestions received during the Symposium, a revised draft should be submitted by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The full range of revised drafts will inform a proposal for a special issue of a journal to be prepared by the conveners.

### **Timeline:**

- January 30<sup>th</sup>: Deadline for proposal submissions;
- February 07<sup>th</sup>: Selected papers are announced;
- March 30<sup>th</sup>: Deadline for submission of first drafts;
- April 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>: Article workshop at The University of Oklahoma.
- June 1<sup>st</sup>: Revised articles are due.

### **Questions?**

Contact the conveners at [fabio.desaesilva@ou.edu](mailto:fabio.desaesilva@ou.edu) and [michelle.morais@ou.edu](mailto:michelle.morais@ou.edu)